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September 19, 2001

RECEIVED

SEP 19 2001

TN REGULATORY AUTHORITY
TELECOMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

Mr. Joe Werner, Chief
Telecommunications Division
Tennessee Regulatory Authority
460 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, Tennessee

TARIFF FILING

Dear Mr. Werner:

01 840

SUBJECT: Tariff Filing to Introduce a Late Payment Charge

Attached is the following tariff filing of BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., issued September 19, 2001. We request an effective date of October 19, 2001.

General Subscriber Services Tariff

Subject Index - Fourth Revised Page 16
Section A1 - Eighth Revised Page 10
Section A2 - Fifth Revised Page 2
Eighth Revised Page 14
First Revised Page 14.1

Private Line Services Tariff

Subject Index - Third Revised Page 12
Section B2 - Third Revised Page 7
Fourth Revised Page 7.1
Seventh Revised Page 14

This Tariff is being filed to introduce the late payment charge in the General Subscriber Services Tariff and increase the existing late payment charge in the Private Line Services Tariff. The revenue resulting from this Tariff will be offset in full by previous rate reductions to services in our non-basic basket. This filing replaces the late payment charge currently suspended in TRA Docket No. 00-00041. Upon approval of this tariff, BellSouth will withdraw its filing in Docket No. 00-00041 in its entirety.

Mr. Joe Werner
September 14, 2001
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Althouth BellSouth does not believe that Late Payment Charges are telecommunications services, they are being offset in full in accordance with BellSouth's Price Regulation Plan.

Additional details can be found in the Executive Summary that is included in this package. Supporting Price Regulation calculations are being filed as proprietary information under separate cover.

We appreciate your returning a receipted copy as evidence of this tariff filing. Please call Paul Stinson at 214-3839 if you have any questions or wish to discuss.

Yours truly,

Charlie Henth

Attachments

LATE PAYMENT CHARGE TARIFF

- Filing Support -

ATTACHMENT

A

B

DESCRIPTION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PROPOSED TARIFF

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This Tariff will introduce a late payment charge for residence and business customers in the General Subscriber Services Tariff ("A" Tariff), and increase the existing late payment charge in the Private Line Services Tariff ("B" Tariff). The late payment charge will be applied to each subscriber's bill when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date.

Description of Present Tariff

The Private Line Services Tariff currently contains a one and one half percent (1.5%) late payment charge. The existing General Subscriber Services Tariff does not specify a late payment charge.

Description of Proposed Tariff

A late payment charge of up to two percent (2%) for residence customers (limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge) and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be charged for BellSouth regulated services. A late payment charge of up to two percent (2%) for residence customers [limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge] and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be applied to charges for regulated services provided by a third party, provided: (a) BellSouth has given notice to customers; or (b) the contract between the customer and the particular third party provides for the late fee; or (c) a valid tariff exists permitting the particular third party to charge the late fee. A different late fee may apply to charges for unregulated services at the rate as provided by the terms of service for these unregulated services, but not to exceed the rate for regulated service. Late payment charges will be applied to the unpaid balance of each subscriber's bill (including amounts billed in accordance with the Company's Billing and Collections Tariff) when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date. Nonpayment of a late payment charge shall not be the sole cause for denial or termination of a customer's local exchange service.

This late payment charge will not apply to: (1) Lifeline customers; (2) Specific charges disputed or contested by the customer, including any applicable taxes, fees or charges directly related to the disputed amount; (3) Charges for prepaid services, except to the extent that the charges for such services remain unpaid on the following bill date; (4) Charges for which the customer has had less than 21 days to pay (subject to notification by the customer); and (5) Previous unpaid late payment charges.

Charges for payments that are overdue on state government accounts will be applied consistent with the applicable state statutes.

This filing is being made under BellSouth's Price Regulation Plan.

Technical Information

The necessary system programming changes and support procedures will be completed and in place prior to the implementation of these tariff changes which will appear on bills with past due payments beginning December 19, 2001 with normal billing cycles. Customer notice will appear on customer bills, beginning October 19, 2001 with normal billing cycles.

Market Information

The late payment charge tariff changes will only impact customers who do not pay their bills on time. The implementation of a late payment charge will be a fair and equitable mechanism for the Company to reduce its unpaid revenue and avoid having to recover these costs from customers who pay their bills on time. It is the Company's intent to not only pass the costs back to the customers generating the costs, but to also provide incentive to these customers to pay their monthly bills on time.

PROPOSED TARIFF

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(N)

EFFECTIVE: October 19, 2001

A1. DEFINITION OF TERMS

INITIAL SERVICE PERIOD

The minimum period of time for which service, facilities and equipment are provided.

INMATE CALLING SERVICE (ICS)

A Coin Telephone Service provided by the Company for the exclusive use of inmates served within the confines of a penal, correctional or mental institution.

INSTALLATION CHARGE

A nonrecurring charge applying to the provision of certain facilities as distinguished from the Service Charge applicable for establishment of basic telephone service. The installation charge is normally associated with optional service features and may sometimes be called an "initial" charge.

INTEGRATION PLUS* SERVICES

BellSouth® Integration Plus* Service (IPS) is a family of services that give the customer the capability to integrate, monitor and manage communications services purchased from the Company from his premises.

INTEGRATED SERVICES DIGITAL NETWORK (ISDN)

Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) is a network architecture supporting Digital Telecommunications services which are user selectable through a common access at a standard interface.

INTEREXCHANGE CHANNEL

The term "Interexchange Channel" when associated with Foreign Exchange Service denotes a channel which connects the primary wire center in the local exchange wire center in the Foreign Exchange. Interexchange Channel Mileage is measured between the two exchange Rate Centers.

INTERFACE

The term "Interface" denotes that point on the premises of the customer at which provision is made for connection of other than Company provided facilities to facilities provided by the Company.

INTERIOR CENTREX STATION

See "Centrex Service"

INTERIOR ESSX-1 STATION

See "ESSX-1 Service"

INTEROFFICE CHANNEL

The term "Interoffice Channel" denotes that portion of a channel which interconnects local channels which serve customers located in different central office areas (wire center serving areas). When associated with Foreign Exchange Service the channel which interconnects a primary wire center to a different wire center.

JOINT USER SERVICE

A classification of exchange service furnished to a joint user in connection with subscribers' exchange service. A joint user is a person, firm or corporation sharing the subscribers' exchange service in accordance with tariff provisions, but who would not otherwise be entitled to the use of the service.

LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

A late payment charge is a charge applied to overdue charges on a subscriber's bill when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date.

(N)

(N)

LIFELINE

A low income assistance program, available to qualified residential subscribers, which reduces monthly charges for local service through credits supported by federal and Company funds.

LINE

See "Exchange Line"

LINK

The term "Link" refers to the use of a single local channel and/or an interoffice/interexchange channel as one segment (partial channel) of a 2 point or multipoint arrangement when at least one other segment of the service arrangement is served by BellSouth® MegaLink® service, BellSouth® MegaLink® Light service, BellSouth® MegaLink® Plus service, BellSouth® MegaLink® channel service, BellSouth® FlexServ® service or BellSouth® PulseLink® service.

LINK-UP

A low income assistance program, available to qualified residential subscribers, which reduces charges for connection of service through credits supported by federal and Company funds.

* Service Mark of BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation

® BellSouth is a registered trademark of BellSouth Intellectual Property Corporation

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A2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

A2.4 Payment Arrangements And Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.3 Payment For Service

- A. The subscriber is responsible for payment of all appropriate charges for completed calls, services, and equipment. All charges due by the subscriber are payable at the Company's Business Office or at any agency duly authorized to receive such payments. If the subscriber does not pay or dispute the bill by the due date, the Company may send out a late notice and consider the account for disconnection of service(s). If the subscriber disputes a bill, the Company will investigate the bill and take appropriate action.
- B. The subscriber shall pay monthly in advance or on demand all charges for service and equipment and shall pay on demand all charges for long distance service and additional local message charges or billed local usage. The subscriber is responsible for payment of all charges for services furnished the subscriber, including charges for services originated or charges accepted at the subscriber's station.
- C. Late Payment Charge¹
1. A late payment charge of two percent (2%) for residence customers (limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge) and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be charged for BellSouth regulated services. A late payment charge of up to two percent (2%) for residence customers (limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge) and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be applied to charges for regulated services provided by a third party, provided:
 - a. BellSouth has given notice to customers; or
 - b. The contract between the customer and the particular third party provides for the late fee; or
 - c. A valid tariff exists permitting the particular third party to charge the late fee.
 2. A different late fee may apply to charges for unregulated services at the rate as provided by the terms of service for these unregulated services, but not to exceed the rate for regulated service.
 3. Late payment charges will be applied to the unpaid balance of each subscriber's bill (including amounts billed in accordance with the Company's Billing and Collections Tariff) when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date.
 4. Nonpayment of a late payment charge shall not be the sole cause for denial or termination of a customer's local exchange service.
 5. This late payment charge will not apply to:
 - a. Lifeline customers;
 - b. Specific charges disputed or contested by the customer, including any applicable taxes, fees or charges directly related to the disputed amount;
 - c. Charges for prepaid services, except to the extent that the charges for such services remain unpaid on the following bill date;
 - d. Charges for which the customer has had less than 21 days to pay (subject to notification by the customer); and
 - e. Previous unpaid late payment charges.
 6. Charges for payments that are overdue on state government accounts will be applied consistent with the applicable state statutes.
- D. Should service be suspended for nonpayment of charges, it will be restored upon payment of the Line Change Charge applicable for restoration of service as provided in Section A4. of this Tariff.
- E. When the service has been disconnected for nonpayment, the service agreement is considered to have been terminated. Reestablishment of service may be made only upon the execution of a new service agreement which is subject to the provisions of this Tariff.
- F. In its discretion, the Company may restore or reestablish service which has been suspended or disconnected for nonpayment of charges, prior to payment of all charges due. Such restoration or reestablishment shall not be construed as a waiver of any such or other charges due and unpaid or for the violation of the provisions of this Tariff; nor shall the failure to suspend or disconnect service for nonpayment of any past due account or accounts operate as a waiver or estoppel to suspend or disconnect service for nonpayment of such account or of any other past due account.

Note 1: The Company will begin applying the charges set forth in this section with normal billing cycles starting on December 19, 2001.

EFFECTIVE: October 19, 2001

A2. GENERAL REGULATIONS

A2.4 Payment Arrangements And Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

A2.4.3 Payment For Service (Cont'd)

- G. An administrative charge will be applied by the Company whenever a check or bank draft presented for payment for service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written. (T)(M)

1. Returned check/bank draft (M)

- (a) Each

Rate	USOC
\$20.00	NA

(M)

- H. Customers who have deferred payment agreements for services provided by the Company will be allowed to spread the service charges, as specified in Section A4. of this Tariff, plus interest over the respective period of the agreement. Interest on deferred amounts will be calculated at the rate set forth in the deferred payment agreement executed by the customer. The interest rate to be charged on deferred payments will be revised periodically by the Company. If, in the judgement of the Company, the maximum interest rate allowed by law is insufficient to cover the costs of providing the deferred payment option, the Company will suspend the availability of said option until such time as the costs of providing said option can be recovered through the application of a lawful interest rate. Suspension of the deferred payment option will not affect customers who have executed a deferred payment agreement prior to the effective date of such suspension. The deferred charges (including calculated interest) will be prorated on a monthly basis over the selected deferral period length. (T)(M)

- I. Residence subscribers with overdue bill balances for their existing service, which has been temporarily suspended for nonpayment, who are unable to pay the charges in full may be allowed to retain their local service if they elect to have a full toll restriction placed on their existing service, at no charge, until the charges are paid. These subscribers may arrange to pay the outstanding balance in up to twelve (12) monthly installment payments. (T)(M)

A2.4.4 Allowance For Interruptions

When the use of service or facilities furnished by the Company is interrupted due to any cause other than the negligence or willful act of the subscriber or the failure of the facilities provided by the subscriber, a pro rata adjustment of the fixed monthly charges involved will be allowed, upon request of the subscriber, for the service and facilities rendered useless and inoperative by reason of the interruption during the time said interruption continued in excess of twenty-four hours from the time it is reported to or detected by the Company, except as otherwise specified in this Tariff. For the purpose of administering this regulation, every month is considered to have thirty days. (M)

A2.4.5 Reserved For Future Use

A2.4.6 Reserved For Future Use

A2.4.7 Reserved For Future Use

BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
TENNESSEE
ISSUED: September 19, 2001
BY: President - Tennessee
Nashville, Tennessee

PRIVATE LINE SERVICES TARIFF

Third Revised Page 12
Cancels Second Revised Page 12

EFFECTIVE: October 19, 2001

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L.

SUBJECT

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(N)

B2. REGULATIONS

B2.3 Obligations Of The Customer (Cont'd)

B2.3.1 Customer Responsibilities (Cont'd)

- I. Making Company facilities available for maintenance purposes at a time agreeable to both the Company and the customer. No allowance will be made for the period during which the service is interrupted for such purposes.

B2.3.2 Reserved For Future Use

B2.3.3 Transfer Of Service

The service or any rights associated therewith may not be assigned or in any manner transferred except as otherwise provided for in this Tariff.

B2.4 Payment Arrangements And Credit Allowances

B2.4.1 Payment Of Charges And Deposits

- A. Applicants for service who have no account with the Company or whose financial responsibility is not a matter of general knowledge, may be required to make an advance payment at the time an application for service is placed with the Company, equal to the installation charges if applicable and at least one month's charges for the service provided. In addition, where the furnishing of service involves an unusual investment, applicants may be required to make payment in advance of such portion of the estimated cost of the installation or construction as is to be borne by them. The amount of the advance payment is credited to the customer's account as applying to any indebtedness of the customer for the service furnished.
- B. The Company may, in order to safeguard its interests, require an applicant or customer to make such deposit as the Company deems suitable to be held by the Company as a guarantee of the payment of charges. The fact that a deposit has been made in no way relieves the applicant or customer from complying with the Company's regulations as to advance payments or the prompt payment of bills on presentation. At such time as the contract is terminated the amount of the deposit is credited to the customer's account and any credit balance which may remain is refunded. At the option of the Company such a deposit may be refunded or credited to the customer at any time prior to the termination of the contract. In case of cash deposit, interest at the rate of 6 percent per annum is paid for the period which the deposit is held by the Company.
- C. The customer is held responsible for the payment of all the charges for service and channels in accordance with the Company's regular billing and collection practice.
- D. A charge of \$20.00 will apply whenever a check or draft presented for payment for service is not accepted by the institution on which it is written.
- E. Late Payment Charge¹
 1. A late payment charge of two percent (2%) for residence customers (limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge) and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be charged for BellSouth regulated services. A late payment charge of up to two percent (2%) for residence customers (limited to one and one half percent (1.5%) for the first year following the effective date of this charge) and up to three percent (3%) for business customers may be applied to charges for regulated services provided by a third party, provided:
 - a. BellSouth has given notice to customers; or
 - b. The contract between the customer and the particular third party provides for the late fee; or
 - c. A valid tariff exists permitting the particular third party to charge the late fee.
 2. A different late fee may apply to charges for unregulated services at the rate as provided by the terms of service for these unregulated services, but not to exceed the rate for regulated service.
 3. Late payment charges will be applied to the unpaid balance of each subscriber's bill (including amounts billed in accordance with the Company's Billing and Collections Tariff) when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date.
 4. Nonpayment of a late payment charge shall not be the sole cause for denial or termination of a customer's local exchange service.

Note 1: The Company will begin applying the charges set forth in this section with normal billing cycles starting on December 19, 2001.

(C)

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(N)

B2. REGULATIONS

B2.4 Payment Arrangements And Credit Allowances (Cont'd)

B2.4.1 Payment Of Charges And Deposits (Cont'd)

E. Late Payment Charge (Cont'd)¹

5. This late payment charge will not apply to:
- a. Lifeline customers;
 - b. Specific charges disputed or contested by the customer, including any applicable taxes, fees or charges directly related to the disputed amount;
 - c. Charges for prepaid services, except to the extent that the charges for such services remain unpaid on the following bill date;
 - d. Charges for which the customer has had less than 21 days to pay (subject to notification by the customer); and
 - e. Previous unpaid late payment charges.
6. Charges for payments that are overdue on state government accounts will be applied consistent with the applicable state statutes.

(N)
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(N)
(N)
(N)
(N)
(N)

- F. At the option of the customer, all nonrecurring charges associated with an order for service may be billed over a three month period subject to the following:
- 50 percent of the total nonrecurring charges will be billed in the first monthly billing period after the charges are incurred, and 25 percent of the total nonrecurring charges plus an Extended Billing Plan Charge will be billed in each of the following two monthly billing periods.
 - The Extended Billing Plan Charge is calculated at a rate of 1.0 percent per month or 12 percent annually, on the unbilled balance of the nonrecurring charges.
 - If the customer disconnects service before the expiration of the plan period, all unbilled charges plus the Extended Billing Plan Charge, if applicable, will be included in the final bill rendered.
 - If the customer fails to make any of the payments prior to the next billing date, these late payment charges as specified in B2.4.1.E. preceding will apply.

- G. The Company shall provide all eligible telecommunications services at discounted rates to eligible schools and libraries as specified in the Tennessee Regulatory Authority's Order, issued on September 18, 1997, establishing intrastate discounts for schools and libraries pursuant to Section 254(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and FCC Order 97-157.

(T)

The discounts shall be applied as set forth in the following discount matrix from the TRA's September 18, 1997 Order.

Percent of Students Eligible	Schools in Category Estimated %	Discount Level	
		Urban Discount %	Rural Discount %
<1	3	20	25
1-19	31	40	50
20-34	19	50	60
35-49	15	60	70
50-74	16	80	80
75-100	16	90	90

- H. Customers of BellSouth Telecommunications Inc., who comply with the rules of the rural healthcare program and are eligible for benefits under this program, will receive these benefits as monthly credits on BellSouth bills as prescribed by the rules of the FCC's designated rural healthcare program administrator under 47 U.S.C.254(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) Paragraph 54.601, et seq, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Order 97-157.

(T)

Note 1: The Company will begin applying the charges set forth in this section with normal billing cycles starting on December 19, 2001.

(N)

B2. REGULATIONS

B2.5 Definitions (Cont'd)

EXCHANGE

The term "Exchange" means a unit established by the Company or its connecting carriers for the administration of communication service in a specified area which usually embraces a city, town or village and its environs. It consists of one or more central offices together with the associated plant used in furnishing communication service within the area.

EXCHANGE AREA

The term "Exchange Area" denotes the territory served by an exchange.

HALF-DUPLEX SERVICE

The term "Half-Duplex Service" denotes service which permits communication alternately in either direction, or for communication in one direction only.

HEADSET

The term "headset" denotes a hands-free, multi-wire device containing acoustic-to-electric (transmitter) and electric-to-acoustic (receiver) transducers, normally worn on the head of the user for close talking, which provides for the transmission of human speech.

HOST OFFICE

The term "Host Office" denotes an electronic switching system which provides call processing capabilities for one or more Remote Modules or Remote Systems.

HUB

The term "Hub" denotes a Company designated wire center where bridging or multiplexing functions are performed.

INTERFACE

The term "Interface" denotes that point on the premises of the customer or authorized user at which Company-provided private line service terminates and at which connection of Company-provided private line service is made with communications systems or terminal equipment provided by the customer, authorized user or with other Company-provided service.

INTERMEDIATE SERVING CENTRAL OFFICE

The term "Intermediate Serving Central Office" refers to a central office from which a service point on a private line is served and through which the private line is routed.

INTEROFFICE CHANNEL

The term "Interoffice Channel" denotes that portion of a private line service which interconnects different central office areas (wire center serving areas).

INTRALATA

See Local Access and Transport Area (LATA)

LATE PAYMENT CHARGE

A late payment charge is a charge applied to overdue charges on a subscriber's bill when the previous month's bill has not been paid in full prior to the next billing date.

LINK

The term "Link" refers to the use of a single local channel and/or an interoffice channel as one segment (partial channel) of a 2 point or multipoint arrangement when at least one other segment of the service arrangement is served by MegaLink® service, MegaLink® Light service, MegaLink® Plus service, MegaLink® channel service, FlexServ® service or PulseLink® service.

LOCAL ACCESS AND TRANSPORT AREA (LATA)

The term "Local Access and Transport Area" denotes a geographic area established by the Company for the administration of communications service. It encompasses designated exchanges, which are grouped to serve common social, economic and other purposes.

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(N)